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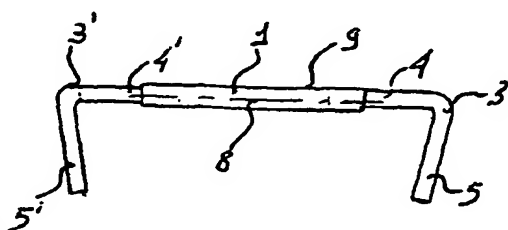
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(54) Title: STAPLE FOR THE SUTURE OF THE STERNUM



(57) Abstract: A staple for the suture of the sternum having a central body with right and left threaded ends in which two teeth are screwed able to be introduced into suitable holes made astride a median sternotomy performed on a patient. Rotating the central body draws the teeth together or apart, thus tightening the two halves of the sternum with appropriate tension. The staple is suitable to be tightened by means of an apparatus provided with friction, to give the correct tightening tension. Also described are a method for the suture of the sternum and punch cutter forceps suitable to be used in such operation.

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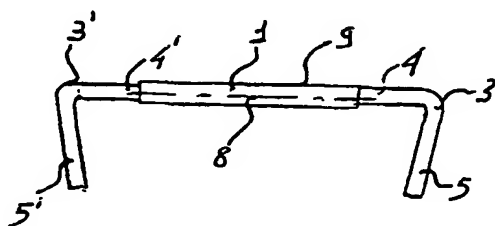
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(57) Abstract: A staple for the suture of the sternum having a central body (1) with right and left threaded ends (2, 2') in which two teeth (3, 3') are screwed able to be introduced into suitable holes made astride a median sternotomy performed on a patient. Rotating the central body (1) draws the teeth (3, 3') together or apart, thus tightening the two halves of the sternum with appropriate tension. The staple is suitable to be tightened by means of an apparatus provided with friction, to give the correct tightening tension. Also described are a method for the suture of the sternum and punch cutter forceps suitable to be used in such operation.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 723 540 A (GILMER JR RAYMOND E) 9 February 1988 (1988-02-09) column 2, line 61 -column 3, line 14; figures 2,4 column 4, line 42 - line 47; figure 5 figures 6-9	1,2,6-8
Y	---	3,4
A	---	12
Y	US 6 348 054 B1 (ALLEN DREW) 19 February 2002 (2002-02-19) column 7, line 46 - line 52; figures 14,15 ---	3,4
Y	DE 295 20 481 U (LOEPRECHT HENNING PROF DR MED ;STORM GERALD (DE)) 5 June 1997 (1997-06-05) claim 1; figures 1,2 ---	9,10
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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	SU 772 541 A (LE NI NEJROKHIRURG I) 23 October 1980 (1980-10-23) the whole document	9, 10
A	US 2002/032465 A1 (LEMER JOSEPH) 14 March 2002 (2002-03-14) figure 1	9, 12, 13
A	FR 2 694 696 A (MEMOMETAL IND) 18 February 1994 (1994-02-18) claim 1; figures 3A-3C	1, 3-5, 12
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Information on patent family members

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